

INTER-AMERICAN HIGHWAY

Exchange of notes at Washington September 9 and October 26, 1942

Entered into force October 26, 1942

*Amended by agreement of May 10 and 12, 1955*¹

56 Stat. 1848; Executive Agreement Series 296

The Honduran Minister to the Secretary of State

[TRANSLATION]

LEGATION OF HONDURAS
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1942

MR. SECRETARY OF STATE:

I have the honor hereby to confirm the terms of my previous conversations with reference to my Government's share in the construction of the Inter-American Highway. Accordingly, may I be permitted to refer to Law No. 375 of December 26, 1941,² which provides for the cooperation of the United States of America with the Governments of the Republics of Central America for the construction of the above-mentioned Inter-American Highway, and to request, in execution of instructions and special authorization from my Government, that the cooperative provisions of the said law be extended to include the Republic of Honduras. To present the guaranties which the said law requires and in order to receive the cooperation provided for in the said law, my Government has made arrangements to assume at least one third of the expenses incurred by it and the United States Government in the tracing and construction of the Highway within the boundaries of Honduras.

To this end my Government, in accordance with Decree No. 52 of February 11, 1942 of the National Congress of Honduras, approved by the Executive Power February 18 of the same year, and in accordance with the powers and provisions of Legislative Decree No. 69 of March 5, 1942, published in the *Gaceta* no. 11652 of March 10, 1942, has negotiated, and will submit, as soon as possible, for approval by the National Congress, a contract with the Export-Import Bank of Washington for a credit of one million

¹ 6 UST 3763; TIAS 3376.

² 55 Stat. 860.

dollars, which, according to the terms of the said contract, shall not be invested without the consent of the bank or for any purpose other than the construction of the Inter-American Highway—note having been taken of the provision that, under the terms of Law No. 375, the tracing and work of construction which the law authorizes shall be under the direction of the Public Roads Administration, Federal Works Agency, and that subsidiary arrangements are being made with the Public Works Administration for the carrying out of the contract in question.

While submitting what is above set forth to Your Excellency's high consideration, I avail myself of the opportunity to renew the assurances of my highest and most distinguished consideration.

JULIÁN R. CÁCERES

His Excellency
CORDELL HULL,
*Secretary of State of the United States,
Washington, D.C.*

The Secretary of State to the Honduran Minister

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON
October 26, 1942

SIR:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your kind note of September 9, 1942, in which you, under the instructions and with the authorization of your Government, requested the cooperation of the Government of the United States in the construction of the Inter-American Highway in Honduras, and offered the assurances required by Public Law 375 of December 26, 1941 in connection with such cooperation.

I take pleasure in informing you that the assurances which you offered are satisfactory to this Government. It is consequently the intention of this Government to extend to the Honduran Government the cooperation envisaged by the law, subject to the ratification by the Honduran Congress of the contract mentioned in your note. I understand that the Honduran Congress is to convene December 5, and that the loan contract will be presented to it for ratification immediately thereafter.

As your note indicates, the survey and construction work authorized by the law shall be under the administration of the Public Roads Administration, Federal Works Agency. It is understood that the competent Honduran authorities will make a subsidiary agreement with the Administration to carry out this provision of the law.

I am much gratified at the prospect that through this cooperative under-

taking it will be possible to complete the Inter-American Highway through Honduras. Transportation facilities will be improved, new lands and new natural resources developed, additional markets opened, and local economic conditions benefitted through the useful expenditure of money which this project envisages. Both of our countries should happily profit therefrom. I sincerely trust that the Highway will serve not only as a link to increase material intercourse between our nations but also as another bond in the close friendship which unites us.

Accept, Sir, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

For the Secretary of State:

SUMNER WELLES

The Honorable

Señor Dr. DON JULIAN R. CACERES,
Minister of Honduras.